

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated February 23, 2005, in which the Examiner objected to the disclosure and abstract, rejected claims 1-2, 8, 12-13, 18 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) and objected to claims 3-7, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 25-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, a typographical error in the specification has been corrected. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the disclosure.

As indicated above, the abstract has been amended to delete the term "means". Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the correction and withdraws the objection to the abstract.

Claims 1-2, 8, 12-13, 18 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Crompton et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,424).

As indicated above, objected to claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1, objected to claim 19 has been incorporated into claim 18 and objected to claim 25 has been incorporated into claim 22. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-2, 8, 12-13, 18 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b).

Since objected to claims 4-7, 9-11, 14-17 and 26-27 depend from allowable claims, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection thereto.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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